



HISPANIC CENTER
OF EXCELLENCE



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World Kidney Day HCOE Volunteers, Dr. Julio Vijil (RT) , Dr. Joge Girotti (LT)



Urbana M1 Latino Medical Students & HCOE Staff



Lilia Lover M2 and Rachelle Padilla M2 at>NNLAMS National Conference

Honoring Latino Physicians



Joseph A. Flaherty, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine

I started as Dean of UIC College of Medicine in 2004. I have not had the privilege of meeting every one of you; nevertheless, all of you have had an impact on the college's accomplishments. Our Latino physicians, alumni and non-alumni, who serve as clinicians, researchers, faculty, administrators and community leaders have made us proud. Your bicultural and bilingual skills have helped heal our communities and break barriers that continue to impact quality care.

The College is rich in experience, diversity, and the personal accomplishments of many alumni, which are far too many to name. Many of you acknowledged that the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) has played an integral role in your medical education. Some of you may recall earlier years of the Urban Health Program, when the Hispanic Center of Excellence was under UHP. HCOE is now an entity on its own. Within the last few years the Center has evolved and expanded. HCOE plays an essential role in supporting and maintaining a diverse student body. During the last two years UIC has been number one in the country in terms of entering and graduating Latino physicians. The MCAT average for Latino undergraduates continues to improve and the mean USMLE Step 1 scores have also increased.

HCOE is actively involved various functions and active in numerous academic areas, showing strong support for our students. Many of you may not know HCOE as it is today. HCOE offers programs at all levels of the medical profession. It provides Latino high school students and the community an opportunity to discuss Latino health care issues, review Latino patient cases through the HCOE Network Grand Rounds and network with Latino physicians in primary and specialty care; it offers the Medicina Scholars Program, a three-year curriculum to help selected high school and undergraduate students

obtain a solid foundation of exposure to careers in medicine prior to applying to medical school and requires attendance to courses in three different levels of Professionalism, Public Health Policy, Ethics, History of Medicine, and Cultural Competence; continues to provide the Leadership Development Conference with team challenges for working in a medical environment, a bio-terrorism exercise and an opportunity to meet physicians which voluntarily play a key role in encouraging and motivating our students through their experiences. HCOE has a summer medical student research program for first-year students, provides MCAT and USMLE Step 1 reviews; HCOE assists with Admissions interviews, offers a Faculty Fellows Program for physicians interested in academic medicine, partners with clinical departments to provide continuing medical education (CME) programs for physicians, acts as a liaison for volunteer opportunities for Latino students who wish to utilize their bilingual skills at health fairs and community clinics, assists the NNLAMS—La RaMA medical student organization, produces two HCOE newsletters per year, provides advising and has fostered relationships with international affiliates in Latin American countries. It has always been my wish to reach out and get involved with the community. HCOE plays an integral part in fulfilling our responsibility in giving back to the community. I am deeply indebted to those of you who have volunteered to help the Hispanic Center of Excellence by teaching a class, by mentoring or being a preceptor, by making CME programs successful, by contributing funds to HCOE Special Programs or HCOE Scholarships, by making yourself accessible for HCOE Newsletter stories, and for making the Center one of the best assets of the College. Your contributions and generosity are invaluable. Muchisimas Gracias for helping us provide a strong foundation in medical education for the next generations of Latino physicians.



Leslie J. Sandlow, MD
Senior Associate Dean,
Educational Affairs

A Tribute to the past, present and future Latino Physicians:

The College of Medicine is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year! There are many milestones that have contributed to our success. Advanced technology, major growth in our research activities, a world-renowned facility in the basic and clinical sciences as well as medical education, a new research center and our medical library. However, we are most proud of our Latino alumni who have opened the doors for future Latino doctors. You have become one of our most valued resources. As the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) slogan states, "We turn dedicated students into extraordinary doctors". Mil gracias! With changes in the environment we have also realize that the populations we serve are also changing. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Hispanics remained the largest minority group in the nation, with 44.3 million on July 1, 2007 — 14.8 percent of the total population. Approximately, one third of our patient population is Hispanic. With the shortage of physicians we need to train, retain, and graduate more Latino medical students, which benefits medical education and the delivery of our health care. The Hispanic Center of Excellence has helped us graduate the largest number of Latinos in the country. In 2006, UIC had the largest Latino incoming class in the country with 50 Latino medical students of a total of 300.

In 2007, we had 44 incoming Latino medical students. HCOE out numbered Texas, California, New York and Florida. "Hispanic Business Magazine, September 2007 issue, ranked UIC one of the top 10 medical schools for Hispanics. In the state of Illinois, 2 out of 3 Latinos earning a M.D. degree, graduate from UIC-there are seven medical schools in the state (source:AAMC). We need to have our graduates become more and more involved in mentoring and advising these students and participating in the curricular activities as we.. We hope the Center will also play a major role increasing the number of Hispanic physicians enter academic medicine as well as clinical practice. You can help by continuing to contribute to our success by becoming involved with the Center or contributing funds to HCOE, which helps support Medicina Scholars, a pre-med program, HCOE Network Grand Rounds, Summer Medical Student Research Fellowships, Latino faculty development, the Leadership Development Conference, Continued Medical Education of Physicians, international Latino medical school affiliations, scholarships, support for MCAT and Step 1 Exams, cultural competence courses, and future generations of Latino physicians. We value your contributions!



Jorge A. Girotti, PhD
Associate Dean of the
College of Medicine
Dean of Admissions
Director of Hispanic Center
of Excellence

Two thousand seven was an impressive year for the Hispanic Center of Excellence. We leveraged financial support from the General Assembly and the College of Medicine to assemble a team that put its collective heart into keeping the College as a top educator of Latino physicians.

The University of Illinois College Of Medicine made “Hispanic Business” magazine’s top ten list of medical schools for Latinos, and was named one of the top five by “Diverse Issues in Higher Education.” Beyond the numbers we have made it our goal to offer the best environment for students to achieve their dream of becoming doctors.

This report highlights the Center’s wide range of accomplishments for 2007. As you peruse these pages you will see that we are about much more than student programs. For example, the Center met success in these endeavors: we developed Latino

Faculty; we outreached to local Latino physicians to support their continuing medical education; we contacted Latino alumni to engage them with the HCOE and students; and we made great strides in identifying medical schools in Latin America for potential partnerships.

Even with all these great achievements, we believe that students remain at the core of our existence. Illinois and the nation must make progress in creating a diverse leadership in medicine. Achieving that goal will depend on our ability to develop a sustained “pipeline” of students that leads to significant enrollment in medical school.

The Center is a unique resource to the College, the state and the nation in that shared goal. With the number of Latinos growing at a tremendous pace, our work could not be more critical. Your support will make it possible to get there.

The mission of the Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) is to assist the College of Medicine in supporting programs of excellence in education for Latinos in medicine.

The HCOE strengthens the national capacity to train Latino students (who are under-represented in the medical profession) and build a more diverse health care workforce.

The center supports the following goals:

- » Provide faculty development to train, recruit and retain Latino faculty, including payment of stipends and fellowships.
- » Focus on Latino health issues in information resources, clinical education, and curricula.
- » Facilitate faculty and student research in Latino health.
- » Provide community-based clinical training in which students care for significant numbers of Latino patients.
- » Enhance the overall experience of Latino medical students.
- » Develop a competitive applicant pool (in conjunction with several partner organizations).
- » Promote awareness and raise funds for scholarship support.
- » Develop international partnerships with medical schools in Latin America.
- » Collaborate with College of Medicine departments in providing Continued Medical Education (CMEs) for Latino physicians in the Chicago area.

The program objectives are to:

- » Increase the number of tenured Latino faculty at UIC, and raise the number of Latino faculty on the tenure track.
- » Introduce and expose students to Latino medical health issues and needs and improve resources for education.
- » Expose Latino students to the ambulatory care of Latino patients during the course of an academic year by increasing the percent of Latino preceptors in the Longitudinal Primary Care (LPC) component of Essentials of Clinical Medicine (ECM courses) and adding one elective clinical rotation that focuses on the care of Latino patients in community-based settings.
- » Raise the number of Latino student research opportunities on Latino health-related issues.
- » Enhance Latino student performance in medical education by increasing the number of Latino students passing the USMLE-1, and increasing the number who graduate on time.
- » Increase the pool of eligible Illinois Latino applicants to the UIC College of Medicine.

Our core competency areas are faculty development, curriculum, faculty and student research, developing competitive applicants, creating awareness of Latino health care issues and resources expansion. None of these programs would be possible, without having dedicated students. We turn dedicated students into extraordinary doctors.

One of HCOE's most important functions is to assist in the recruitment of Latinos into medical school by forming a strong applicant pool through two of our programs: The Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) Network and Medicina Scholars Program.

The HCOE Network provides Latino high school, undergraduate, and medical school students with an opportunity to attend three annual sessions including HCOE Grand Rounds. We currently have 1500 HCOE Network members. This Network introduces students to the field of medicine and is open to any Latino student who aspires a career in medicine. The Grand Rounds provide students exposure to our College of Medicine Latino faculty in primary and specialized care. The Grand Rounds also provide students exposure to clinical case studies involving Latino patients and illnesses prominent in our communities. Virtual reality surgeries and other cutting edge procedures at UIC are provided as well. Mentorship and advising are key elements of the HCOE Network. We are proud to have had over 300 students attend the last year's Grand Rounds facilitated by Dr. Julio Vijil, Dr. Alejandro Clavier and Dr. Jorge Girotti.

We are proud of the Medicina Scholars program, which introduces competent applicants to a medical career with a three-year curriculum. This provides us

the opportunity to track students through the program, their application process and throughout their medical education. The curriculum includes the following courses at three levels, advancing every year: History of Medicine, Professionalism, Public Health Policy, Ethics, Cultural Competence, and the Grand Rounds. We provide training and require volunteerism with key health related community based organizations and at health fairs.

Each cohort group has 30 students. The College of Medicine Latino faculty and local doctors teach the courses. Latino Physicians who volunteer have provided great support, their experiences, and mentorship to our students. We thank the following physicians for teaching on the first Saturday of the month:

Special Thanks to:

Pilar Carmona, MBA
Dr. Louis Casado
Dr. Frank Castillo
Dr. Jose de la Cruz
Dr. Evelyn Figueroa
Dr. Javier Flores
Dr. Jorge A. Girotti
Dr. Imelda Huerta
Dr. Xavier Llor

Dr. Luisa Madronero
Dr. Jaime Quezada
Dr. Ricardo Senno
Dr. Warren Solomon
Dr. Jose Trevino
Raul Vasquez
Dr. Julio Vijil
Dr. Omar Villarroel

Dr. Grace Arteaga, who flew in from her office at the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota just to teach the Medicina Scholars. We also thank the Mayo Clinic for sponsoring her trip.

Dr. Peter Perez, alumni practicing in L.A., who was in

town to visit family in Chicago and took time to teach a Medicina Scholar course.

The culmination of Medicina Scholars every year is the HCOE Leadership Development Conference. A day and a half conference off site to expose pre-med students to our Latino physicians, Latino health care issues, careers in primary care and specialized care. We could only support 30 Medicina Scholar students in their first year of the Medicina Scholars program. We are fortunate to have many of you volunteer to facilitate workshops over the years. We are proud to have the Assistant Dean of the Graduate College; Jose Perales present a bio-terrorism exercise for students aspiring to become future physicians. A physical team challenge is presented to teach students the meaning of working in a medical environment as a team. Pictures on our web site say it all. Last year some of the other talks and presenters included:

The Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship Program builds a foundation for Latino medical students to have basic research experience and opportunities to build their CV. The Summer Medical Student Research Program is a ten week fellowship which matches a preceptor with a student. We are proud of the students who have posted at national conferences and poster sessions within our institution. Completed research projects also have given our students the

opportunity to publish. We thank all the researchers who have taken our students under their wing and exposed them to medical advances from the lab to the bedside.

Another key area of focus for the Center has been Latino Faculty recruitment and development. There were 32 Latino faculty members at the College of Medicine, 10 are tenured, and another 8 are in a tenure track position. The Center's staff spent a year meeting with department heads to encourage them to recruit junior Latino faculty and increase the number of tenure-track Latinos in academic medicine. The HCOE provides a two-year faculty development fellowship. Training includes clinical instruction coordinated by the Department of Medical Education. HCOE sponsors professional conferences and a year of development and support for a research project.

HCOE continues to collaborate with the University of Kansas City Missouri in providing Step 1 diagnostic exams for our Latino medical students. We are proud to of the record of passing listed in our charts. HCOE coordinated the following events with key medical departments, community organizations, Latino physicians and medical students:

The Annual Surgery Symposium with CME credit, the Illinois Hispanic Physician

Association (IHPA) Diabetes Symposium, the IHPA and HCOE symposium with the Illinois Latino Caucus, First Year Medical Student Orientation, Summer Research Orientation, Mid-Summer Research Lunch Assessment, a Summer Medical Student Research Recognition Breakfast with preceptors and students, exhibiting and recruitment at the National Hispanic Medical Association along with our Summer Research Fellows and>NNLAMS LaRama Executive Board, the Annual HCOE Reception, hosted the Dean and President of the University of Aguascalientes, Mexico, the HCOE Advisory Council meetings, meetings with the advancement office and Latino alumni, as well as working on program evaluations with the Department of Medical Education and continues improvements in our programs.

Global medicine provides continual improvement in medical education and health care. HCOE continues to work on cultivating relationships with medical schools in Latin America, which embraces faculty development, and training of medical students and residents.

Accomplishments

- » In 2007, UIC COM had the largest Latino incoming class in the country with 40 of 300 medical students enrolled. HCOE out numbered Texas, California, New York and Florida.
- » 27 Latinos of 265 medical students received their Medical Degrees from UIC (about 10.2% percent of all degrees granted).
- » The AAMC reported that in the state of Illinois, two out of three Latinos who earned an MD degree graduated from UIC. There are 7 medical schools in the state.
- » “Hispanic Business Magazine” September 2007, ranked UIC College of Medicine one of the top 10 Medical Schools for Hispanics.
- » From 1973-2007 we graduated 904 Latino physicians.
- » Latinos at UIC increased to 5 percent of total faculty-2 percent higher than the U.S. average. We added two more Latino junior faculty this past year. Since 2000 we have had 12 HCOE Latino Faculty Fellows at the College of Medicine..
- » The number of Hispanic medical students involved in research has tripled since 1998, from 5 to 17 medical students participated in the HCOE Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship.
- » 174 Latino medical students were enrolled at the UIC College of Medicine for the 2006-2007 academic year. This represents 11 percent of the total student body.
- » The HCOE Network has a total of 1863 members since 1995. At least 100 students attend each Grand Rounds Course.
- » The HCOE Medicina Scholars program had 64 pre-med students enrolled through out the year, each student making a three-year commitment to complete the program.
- » In spite of ongoing tuition increases in the 2006-2007 academic year, UIC remained one of the most affordable medical colleges in Illinois, with an annual tuition and fees costs of about \$27,176 for in-state residents.

We strive to keep stipends for HCOE research fellows competitive. Each fellow receives a \$3500 stipend for the 10-week program.



Jose Ochoa
M3 Chicago
Class of 2009

Jose Ochoa is a third year medical student at the Chicago campus. Medical school is a busy time for any student, but especially for someone eager to give back to the community. Jose's community service ranges from organizing community health fairs to volunteering at health clinics to providing pastoral hospital care. "There is nothing more humbling than helping sick and dying patients get through their ordeals through religion and meditation," he says.

Jose grew up in Chicago's Little Village neighborhood. "My parents immigrated from La Barca, Jalisco and their story of perseverance and hard work has always affected the way my brothers and I approach

life." He plans to continue community service in his neighborhood and hopes to be a positive role model.

Jose has also been an active scholar at the University. He has had several poster presentations including the National Hispanic Medical Association National Conference in San Antonio and the Society of Biomaterials and Engineering Annual Meeting. "I was able to perform orthopedic research at the University of Arizona this summer thanks to the Hispanic Center of Excellence Summer Medical Student Research Fellowship. HCOE stressed the importance of research and provided the means with which I could perform it."



Veronica Tirado
M3 Chicago
Class of 2009
HCOE Summer Medical Student
Research Fellow

Veronica was born and raised in Chicago, the younger of two sisters. Since their childhood, her parents' motivation and goal was to provide their daughters with quality education. In return Veronica worked hard to be at the top of her class and attend a magnet high school. In her junior year of high school she was introduced to medicine through a minority research program. Her personal experiences and her love for science was complimented by meeting minority medical students. She graduated from the University of Chicago with a major in Psychology. Veronica worked a few years as a research assistant in the hospital interviewing patients. Upon graduation, she was offered a position as project manager. This experience confirmed her desire to become a physician. She became highly skilled in establishing rapport and empathizing with patients. She envisioned her exposure to both laboratory and clinical work part of her future. In her first year of medical school, Veronica applied for the

Hispanic Center of Excellence Research Fellowship. Her research project in Geriatrics allowed her to conduct analysis of health disparities and outcomes, monitoring and recording the use of heart failure guidelines and interventional services, as well as assisting in the expansion of a specialized Geriatric Heart Failure Clinic. She was directly responsible for analysis and involved in collaborating with other departments in obtaining an IRB approval. Veronica was also exposed the difficulties in funding and obstacles in accepting new interventions. The instruction on ECG lead placement and ECG readings helped her in Step 1. In addition, the HCOE Summer Medical Student Research Program assisted her in learning cardiac physiology. She is also grateful for the Step 1 practice exams provided by HCOE. These practice exams helped her fine tune her studies and adjust her test taking skills. Veronica is a member of the Psychiatry Interest Group, member of NNLAMS LaRaMa, and volunteer of the Port Health Free Clinic.

- Support is based on a minimum of \$20,000 for one faculty fellow per year to protect their time for professional development, instruction skills, post-graduate training, and research development.
- This is a two year program at a minimum cost of \$40,000 per Fellow.



Alejandro Clavier, M.D.
Assistant Professor
UIC Pediatrics

Alejandro Clavier was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela. He obtained his M.D. degree from Universidad Central de Venezuela in Caracas, 1997. In 1999, he moved to Chicago to pursue his pediatric training at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). After completing his residency in 2002 he became chief resident and later followed with a Fellowship in General Academic Pediatrics, Hispanic Center of Excellence (HCOE) Faculty Fellowship and a Scholars for Teaching Excellence Fellowship. The HCOE Faculty Fellowship provided Dr. Clavier the tools to enhance his teaching skills. Two years ago, he developed a community rotation for the first year residents at UIC. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at UIC where

he teaches general pediatrics. He is also the pediatric clerkship site director for the third year medical students (MS3) rotating at the University of Illinois Hospital (UIH) and in addition maintains a clinical practice. His current research focuses in non-urgent Emergency Department visits and limited English proficiency which was a project developed as part of the Scholars for Teaching Excellence Fellowship. At this time he lives in downtown Chicago with his wife Adriana and their 5 month old daughter Camila. They enjoy a number of different activities such as running and biking.



Claudia Hernandez, M.D.
Assistant Professor & Program Director
Graduate Medical Education &
Clinical Trials
UIC Dermatology

Claudia Hernandez, M.D. was born and raised in Chicago. She is the only child of Felipe and Angelica Hernandez both of whom immigrated to the US from Northern Mexico over 40 years ago. She attended the University of Chicago for her undergraduate studies in biology. After spending some time working in a Dermatology clinic during her undergraduate work-study program, she decided to pursue a career in medicine and attended Northwestern University Medical School. Dr. Hernandez returned to the Internal Medicine Program at the University of Chicago for her Internship year and her residency in Dermatology was completed at Northwestern University Medical Center. She joined the Dermatology Department at the University of Illinois in 2005. Her main interests in Dermatology are vitiligo, melanoma, psoriasis and biologic therapy. She was the recipient of a National Hispanic Medical Association Leadership Fellowship. Currently she has a grant funding to study community outreach for Hispanics regarding the increasing number

of melanoma cases occurring in our community. She is a Program Director in the Department of Dermatology for Graduate Medical Education and Clinical Trials. In addition to research and her clinical hours, Dr. Hernandez is currently a Hispanic Center of Excellence Fellow. This year she started the HCOE two year fellowship which also includes the Scholars for Teaching Excellence Fellowship. Dr. Hernandez is the author of numerous publications in dermatology and hopes to eventually become a national leader regarding health disparities and policy in regarding to the Spanish-speaking community. Her spare time is spent reading, training for marathons and triathlons, lamenting the losing season of her beloved Chicago Bears, and playing with her 2-year-old boy Matthew. She has been married to J. E. Jordan, M.D., a pulmonologist, for fourteen years. Dr. Hernandez is very grateful to have a Hispanic Center of Excellence at UIC and their support.

Medicina Scholars introduces undergraduate and high school students to the field of medicine. Each student makes a three-year commitment to advance in the program. Medicina Scholars provides the foundation to enhance their application to medical school. This year we had 90 Medicina Scholars and will graduate our first cohort group of 30!

- **Each student who completes the yearlong program receives a \$720 stipend.**
- **Three year support for a student totals \$2,160.**
- **64,800 to support 30 Medicina Scholars for 3 years**



Octavio Vega
UIC undergraduate

In the Fall of 2007 Octavio Vega began his junior year as a Pre-Med major at UIC. Octavio is also entering his third and final year of the Medicina Scholars Program. The staff at HCOE is proud to have witnessed the progression made by Octavio since he first enrolled in the program. He has been a model student and a leader both academically and through extra-curricular activities. He has been an active participant in the program through his excellent attendance to the classes, lectures, and through his volunteerism. He has a model student and leader on

the campus of UIC, participating in many activities and serving on the executive board of the Health Oriented Latino Organization (H.O.L.A.). Octavio has worked as a teacher's assistant for the Anatomy and Physiology Lab, MVSC 251. He became involved in this through the current professor of Anatomy and my current professor of Cadaver Dissection, Dr. Bareither. Octavio recently took his MCAT examination and scored well. He will be applying to medical school in 2008 and there is no doubt that he will be admitted and fulfill his goal of becoming a physician.



Angela Bixby
UIC undergraduate

Angela Bixby is heading into her final year of the Medicina Scholars Program. Angela has been an exemplary scholar who displayed her leadership early on at UIC. She served as the President of the Health Oriented Latino Organization and successfully increasing the student involvement in extracurricular activities through HOLA. As a Medicina Scholars, Angela always attended all the classes and lectures. She has taken advantage of every opportunity available to her in preparation for her medical school admissions. Angela has worked at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as a volunteer of the Radiation Oncology Department and helped HISPANOCARE conducting free cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screenings in the Hispanic community

of the Chicago area. Angela has formally present the results of her research participation entitled “Effect of Temperature on Heavy Metal Toxicity to Earthworm Lumbricus Terrestris” at the annual poster presentation organized by the Biological department of the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is passionate about the well being of the Latino community and has devoted many hours volunteering in the community. Her tireless effort will be her foundation as a physician. Angela now acts as a mentor for those students who are beginners in the Medicina Scholars Program. Her contributions to health disparities in the Latino community have been significant thus far as a student and will only continue to grow once she is a physician.

Kidney Mobile visits Medicina Scholars at HCOE



The Leadership Development Conference is a culmination of the Center's programs. This two day program develops student leadership skills in health care, builds advocacy skills, confidence and teamwork. Most importantly it exposes students to Latino physicians, case studies and personal experiences of our doctors.

- **This program pays for lodging, transportation, meals, and materials for 30 students, guest speakers, teamwork consultant and staff. Total cost is \$11,000.**
- **Cost per student to attend is \$366.70.**



Anna Karen Morelos
Medicina Scholars

Going into her second year of the Medicina Scholars Program, AnnaKaren Morelos continues to prepare for her career in medicine. She is a recent graduate of Chicago Public School Northside Preparatory. She was actively involved in high school by participating in over 40 extracurricular activities. She is starting her post secondary education at University of

Illinois at Chicago by way of the highly competitive Guaranteed Professional Program Admissions. Successful completion of the program will guarantee her admissions to the University of Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine. She is a model student with excellent academics and active volunteer in the Latino community.



Emmanuel Zavala
Medicina Scholars

Emmanuel joined the Medicina Scholars Program in March of 2006 by way of Chicago Public School Sullivan High School. He was recognized as a leader in high school and has made it clear from the very beginning that he will become a doctor. He was a member of the his school's Medical Career Academy. He received training in phlebotomy, injections, vital signs, and CPR. He applied his training to serve in

the Latino community as a volunteer at Children's Memorial Hospital. Great performance in and out of the classroom secured Emmanuel a 4-year scholarship to attend Saint Xavier University as Pre-Med/Biology major. He started this Fall as a freshman but it won't take long for him to be recognized for his leadership at yet another institution.



Jorge A. Cavero, M.D.
Associate Professor,
Department of Medical Education

Dr. Jorge Cavero completed his residency training in Internal Medicine at St. Francis of Evanston Hospital and his academic training at the University of the East Dominican Republic. He is President of the Cavero Medical Group, and is a recognized leader and community activist in the Chicago's Latino and Mexican Community. He has established the Cavero Medical Group, a community health care center that is located on the Southwest Side of Chicago, which is predominantly a Latino neighborhood. He is an adopted Alumnus at the University of Illinois at Chicago, because of his continuous support to the College Of Medicine and our Latino students. "What makes Cavero Medical Center so unique to our Latino community is that it helps the community, by providing Latino doctors and nurses to assist their patients. The center provides culturally appropriate bilingual,

bicultural primary health care services to underserved, uninsured families. Dr. Cavero has consistently led efforts to improve and empower the greater Hispanic community. He has created scholarships for Brother Rice High School, which had a minimum number of Latino students, and now has established more population because of these scholarships. Dr. Cavero is also in the Board of Directors with Casa Central. He continuously assists the Hispanic Center of Excellence through their endeavors to help Latino's succeed and strive for higher education in the medical field and health careers. He serves as a member of the UIC Medical Advancement Council and a strong supporter of the Hispanic Center of Excellence. In September 2008, Dr. Cavero became part-time staff of the Hispanic Center of Excellence.



Luis R. Muñoz, M.D., MPH
Associate Professor,
Department of Medical Education

Dr. Munoz received his Medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin in 1986 and completed an internship in Internal Medicine at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, Illinois. He completed his residency in Occupational Medicine at the University of Illinois Medical Center in 1989. Dr. Munoz also received his Masters in Public Health (MPH) degree from the UIC School of Public Health in 1990. He is presently President and Medical Director of the WorkCare Group Medical Center. Dr. Munoz also provides consulting services to the area Fortune 500 companies on occupational and environmental health issues. He has been committed to improving health care delivery and medical education to the Hispanic community, starting with his involvement on the original board of directors

of the Alivio Medical Centers, as well as participating on the Board of Directors of the West Technical Center in the Pilsen/Little Village area.

Dr. Munoz is one of the founders and Director of the Illinois Hispanic Physician Association (IHPA), an advocate for Illinois Hispanic public health care issues and medical education opportunities for Latino students. Recently, Governor Blagojevich named him to the Illinois State Diabetes Commission. He is an active board member of the San Francisco de Assisi parish for the last 15 years. He is currently serving his ninth year on the Board of Director for Gordon Tech High School. In September 2007 Dr. Munoz became part-time staff of the Hispanic Center of Excellence.

The Hispanic Center of Excellence Scholarship was established in 2004 to encourage Latino students to pursue a medical degree. Students must demonstrate high academic achievement, community involvement, and service.

Dr. Jorge A. Cavero established the Scholarship in 2004. We are honored to have commitment from a local physician to the medical education of Latino students.

Luis D. Lomeli,
Class of 2011
M1 Chicago
Recipient, HCOE Scholarship

Luis was born and raised in Chicago, grew up in the Little Village community. Both of his parents came from Mexico and worked in factories. Following their example, he began working at the age of thirteen. He valued his work experience and felt blessed to further his education. Luis's family taught him motivation, determination, hard work and time management. He attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut earning a Bachelor of Arts, double major, in Biology and Neuroscience & Behavior. He also completed his Master's Degree in Public Health, Epidemiology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Luis has conducted research in the prevalence of asthma and asthma related symptoms in Chicago public schools to provide an opportunity for diagnosis and treatment. He also conducted research for the Midwest Latino Health Research and Training Center.

Luis was involved in the recruitment, implementation and data collection of a study in South East Chicago. The study focused on diabetes. It was here that Luis served as a bilingual healthcare volunteer. Through interactions with patients he realized that he could significantly improve the quality of life for patients and hopefully prevent disease. Luis volunteered in several community activities and a natural leader, involved as Co-Chair and Treasurer of the Latino student organization at Wesleyan University, Freshman Representative of Ajua Campos, the Latino student organization, where he gained his leadership skills, founder of the Latino Youth Mentorship Group, which provides tutoring for underprivileged students tutor for the Traverse Square Tutoring Organization, providing tutorship in math, reading and writing skills. Thanks to Dr. Cavero, Luis is on his journey to become a doctor.



Ernesto J. Romo
Class of 2011
M1 Chicago
Recipient, HCOE Scholarship

Ernesto was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and came to Dayton, Ohio at the age of five where his family settled. He excelled academically and continuously provided community service to the needy. He received his Bachelor of Science from the University of Dayton, Ohio.

In his undergraduate years he volunteered to gut homes in New Orleans, conducted fireside chats with faculty, administrators and students on topics of local and global importance, and served as representative of the school's Bonner Foundation Conference. In his sophomore year he applied to the University of Dayton's Summer Appalachia Program (UDSAP) and worked at the East End Community Services Center in Dayton. While working at the Center Ernesto worked with two programs: Milagro de Mujer, which is a Hispanic women's health program, and also Run for Your Life, a program for teenagers that introduced them to resources available to them around the city, such as literacy program, soup kitchens and local sports facilities. It was at East End that he learned about poverty in Urban America. In his junior year,

Ernesto had the opportunity during the summer to do service in Salyersville, Kentucky as part of the UDSAP program. Fourteen students and an administrator planned, fundraised, and prepared to work building relationships with the people of Salyersville. Ernesto worked at a day camp, a teen center and spent time visiting at a local nursing home. The people taught him how much can be gained from helping others. Ernesto has always found ways to help the less fortunate. Among his awards is winning the prized University of Dayton's Stander Symposium Ethics Bowl. During the Ethics Bowl two teams present different ways of approaching ethical issues. Two faculty members judge them. Topics included music industry, health care and office relationships. Needless to say Ernesto's team won twice. In addition to the community service Ernesto worked as a Resident Assistant in various dorms planning educational and social activities and serving as a liaison between students and the university. Thanks to Dr. Cavero, Ernesto is fulfilling his dream of becoming a physician and continuing to help people improve their lives.

Gabriela Rosa

Class of 2011
M1 Urbana
Recipient, HCOE Scholarship

Gabriela was born in Brazil, graduated from New York University with a Bachelor's in Journalism. She has was a violist for NYC Orchestra, wrote for the student newspaper, The Washington Square News, tutored high school students for the SAT, worked at a children's restaurant, interned at the Bloomington, Illinois daily newspaper, was a dental assistant, studied abroad in London and volunteered at the Royal London Hospital and volunteered to work for the Health Education and Literacy Project in Bellevue Hospital in New York City informing parents on how to read medicine labels and English and GED

classes. Gabriela's experience at Bellevue Hospital was an example of language and educational barriers that impact healthcare. Although her volunteer work did not involve direct medical care, her work made a difference for Spanish-speaking patients. She realized that this hospital doesn't just treat illnesses; they take preventive steps through education. For Gabriela medicine goes beyond healthcare: it involves prevention, education and compassion. Thanks to Dr. Cavero, Gabriela is in the highly dynamic field of medicine.



Sara Prieto
Class of 2011
M1 Chicago
Recipient, College of Medicine
Dean's Scholarship

Sara Prieto is both an academically outstanding student and a leader. It is no surprise that she was awarded a 2007 UIC College of Medicine Dean's Scholarship.

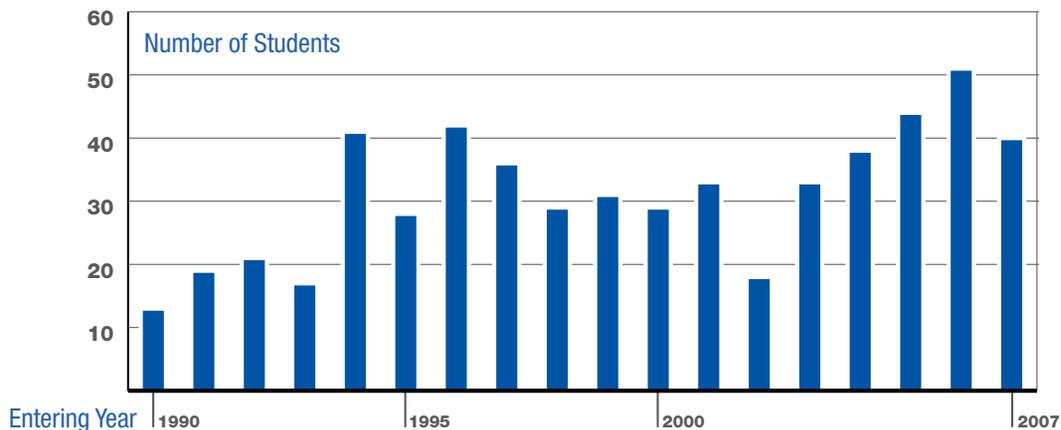
Sara graduated Summa Cum Laude with a degree in Biological Sciences from UIC. As an undergraduate, Sara was very involved in extracurricular activities. One such activity which she initiated with a fellow student was the EcoCampus, an environmental organization working with UIC to help reduce overall consumption of all goods on campus and in the surrounding neighborhood, reform recycling, and cut back on energy and waste. It was this experience that helped her realize that environmental and human health issues are closely related. Sara also worked as an undergraduate Research Assistant analyzing 3.5 billion year old sediments for organic compounds, or biomarkers, trying to detect evidence of life during that time on Earth. She also chose to volunteer at the St. Francis Hospital in Evanston because of its mission to serve the poor in the surrounding area. This experience helped her determine her mission for the future, "For this is the type of community I would like to serve as a physician, it was perfect for me." One of Sara's other volunteer activities included tutoring in general chemistry, organic chemistry, biology, algebra and pre-calculus for the Honors College.

Her research led to a paper on the use of nuclear propulsion in space exploration as part of a statewide essay competition. She presented and defended

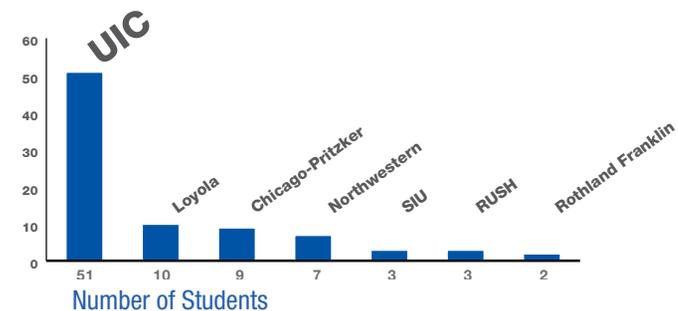
her paper at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to a panel of judges comprised of nuclear engineers and was awarded first place, which included a monetary scholarship. Among other awards, Sara received the Women in Engineering Scholarship from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in recognition of her academic achievements and activities in high school. She was also awarded the Chicago Society of Engineers Scholarship for her academic achievements in high school. It's no wonder that Sara was awarded the Outstanding Scholarship in Biology of Populations and Communities on having the highest academic standing in all the Biology of Populations and Communities classes.

In her first year in medical school, she was selected as a Health Fair leader for the annual health fair organized by the Chicago Medical Student Council. Sara also chairs the Family Medicine Interest Group. Kudos to Sara for her dedication to serving others, for continually seeking to learn and research, but most importantly share her knowledge with others! Sara is an inspiration to our entire Latino undergraduate and medical students.

Entering Latino Medical Students

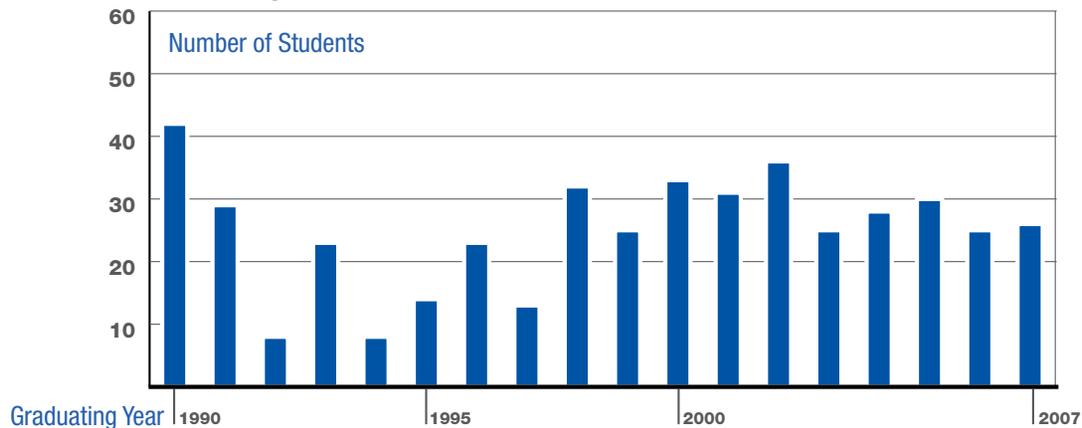


Entering Latino Students to Illinois Medical Schools in 2006

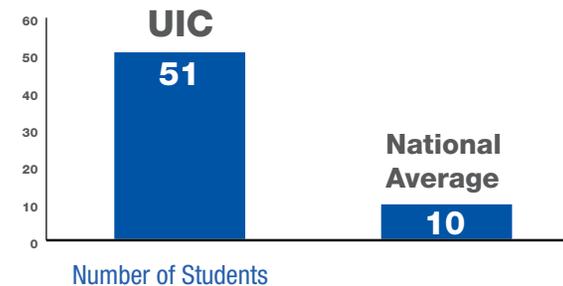


Source: AAMC Medical School Admission Requirements (MSAR) 2008-2009

Graduating Latino Medical Students



2006 Latino National Average Matriculants Out of the 126 Medical Schools

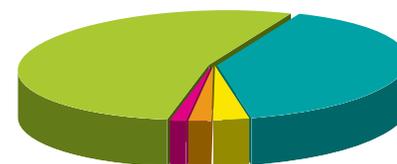


Source: AAMC Medical School Admission Requirements 2008-2009

HCOE functioned with a more limited budget this year, compared to previous years. In spite of this, we continue to strive for excellence. We thank Dean Flaherty and the College of Medicine for their continued support. We also thank the members of the Latino Caucus of the Illinois General Assembly for taking an interest in education, health care issues, and the Latino community. Finally, we thank the Illinois Hispanic Physician Association (IHPA) for helping to promote HCOE’s mission and raising Latino health care awareness and medical education.

HCOE provides advising, implements grand rounds three times a year, established a two year faculty fellowship program for Latino faculty who want to pursue academic medicine, is involved in recruitment of Longitudinal Primary Care Preceptors, collaborates on CME’s with internal departments, provides opportunities to expand our affiliations in Latin America and continually evaluates the outcomes of our programs. We are proud of our staff and our accomplishments.

Hispanic Center of Excellence - Operating Budget



Programming	161,009	□
Supplies/Equipment	11,404	□
Publications	8,198	□
Staff Travel	6,000	□
Salaries and Benefits	213,389	□
Total	400,000	

Information Resources

Five years ago we set out to increase the informational resources at the Hispanic Center of Excellence. We recognized that keeping up with technology would help us to stay in contact with alumni, premedical and medical students, residents, community physicians, health care partners and Latin American medical schools. Thus we invested in establishing the HCOE web site with options to access scholarships, internships, the UIC medical sciences library, HCOE newsletter, staff contacts, applications for our programs, CME registrations, and current HCOE collaborations and events, just to name a few topics. We also established a HCOE library utilizing funds and accepting donations to help build the library and support Latino students, faculty, and community physicians with access to books and other multimedia products. We have increased the number of available information resources that address Hispanic health issues by partnering with the medical science library and offering links on our website. HCOE also established a database to assist us in tracking our students and maintaining communications with our constituents via email, mail, and faxes, but most important continually looking at the results of our programs by race, gender, by number of participants, and at a finger tip emailing all students in a program. Our investment has paid off by and we continue to improve in the technical area of information resources.

www.hcoe.medicine.uic.edu Jan. through Dec. 2007

Page on the website	Number of times viewed
Home page	4,680
Contacts	1,169
Scholarships	743
Medicina Scholars	723

Top 4 most visited pages on HCOE.medicine.uic.edu in 2007

A Closer Look at the Web Site



HCOE web site - home page.

In 2007 HCOE web site was visited 4,230 times by at least 3,013 unique visitors. While most IP addresses are from Illinois there were at least 272 from California and 107 from Texas. Google has sent over 1500 total visits via almost 1000 different keywords. The HCOE web site has been optimized for the search engines. The most web traffic comes from search engines via keywords: Most popular keyword - “HCOE”, third most popular keyword - “Medicina Scholars.”

HCOE web site offers valuable information on scholarships, various programs and contact information at the students’ fingertips. Content Management System allows HCOE staff to access and manage the site’s content, schedule appointments and instantly upload resourceful information.



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